(c) what action Government plans to take against such Airlines exploiting such situations to keep them under control and whether Government is planning to introduce price regulatory mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air fares are not regulated and airlines are not required to file fares with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

Skidding of aircraft at Mumbai airport

2013. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of mishap at Mumbai airport on 10 November, 2009 causing skidding of an aircraft of a private airlines;

(b) whether it is due to just the short runway or a worrying lack of coordination between airlines, the airport operator and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(c) whether DGCA had issued instructions a day before the incident took place to the airlines and Mumbai International Airport Limited to suspend operations on shortened runway under wet conditions;

(d) the reasons of not complying the security measures by private airlines; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take against the pilots involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. An incident of M/s Kingfisher Airlines ATR-72 aircraft VT-KAC skidding off wet runway at Mumbai airport was reported on 10.11.2009, which is being investigated as per the provision contained in the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(c) All the scheduled operators were informed on 09.11.2009 about the precautions to be observed while using Runway 27A under wet condition, followed by issuance of circular dated 10.11.2009.

(d) and (e) The incident is under investigation and follow up action will be taken based on the recommendations made in the investigation report. Meanwhile, the privileges of licences held by operating crew have been suspended pending investigation under Aircraft Rules.

Subsidy for Haj pilgrims

2014. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides subsidized air travel by the national carrier to the Haj pilgrims sponsored by Haj Committee;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country carrier has entered into a bilateral agreement with the Saudi national carrier to carry Haj pilgrims;

(c) if so, the details of the passengers travelled by national carrier and Saudi carrier during the last three years; and

(d) the details of revenue sharing agreement between Indian and Saudi national carriers considering that Government provides subsidy for air travel to Hajis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation enters into an MOU with Saudi Arabian Airlines to carry Haj pilgrims from different embarkation points. The number of pilgrims carried by Air India and Saudi Arabian Airlines during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Air India	Saudi Arabian Airlines
Haj 2008	64,247	57,448
Haj 2007	51,083	58,917
Haj 2006-II	49,327	59,191

(d) There is no such agreement.

Agitations against merger in Air India

2015. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the objectives of the merger of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);

(b) whether those objectives have been met;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether recurrent agitations in Air India are one of the constraints in realizing the objectives of the merger; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to discount such agitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The integration of the two airlines was done with the objectives of developing seamless connectivity, network of regional operations, short to medium haul trunk operations and long haul operations resulting in an improved product offering through wider network coverage. The merger would also provide significant synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for leveraging common assets.

(b) Fulfilment of the objectives of the merger is an on-going process.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.